

## Head of Children's Rights Advice Service

### JOB PACK

- **Salary: £42,448 per annum pro rata plus 6% employer's pension contribution**
- **Hours: 21 hours per week**
- **28 days annual leave per year plus Bank Holidays (pro rata) and an extra day for your birthday**
- **Home-working (in England)**
- **Duration of contract: 12 months initially from April 2022. We are committed to this becoming one of our core posts, subject to impact and continued funding**

Article 39 works with others to fight for the rights of children who live in institutional settings. We are a small, independent charity which focuses on impact and putting children and young people first. Always.

This is a brand new role for a creative and energetic lawyer who can consolidate and expand the help we offer to children and young people, their independent advocates and others to protect the rights of children and young people.

Working within a small, supportive team, you will bring your passion for access to justice and using the law to bring about positive change in children and young people's lives. This is a perfect role for someone wanting to work in a leading children's rights charity where you can make your own mark.

*Article 39 works for equality and values diversity. Disabled applicants who meet our person specification are guaranteed an interview. We support family-friendly working.*

### 1. About us

Article 39 fights for the rights of children living in state and privately-run institutions, a population of around 90,000 in England. We take our name from the part of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child which entitles children and young people who have been abused or neglected the right to recover in environments where their health, self-respect and dignity are nurtured.

We formed in 2015, achieved registration with the Charity Commission in March 2016 and secured our first funding in July 2016.

Information about our work and the impact we have is available on our main website. In addition, our rights4children website gives accessible information to children and young people about many aspects of their rights. We strongly encourage you to visit both sites before making your application:

[www.article39.org.uk](http://www.article39.org.uk)  
[www.rights4children.org.uk](http://www.rights4children.org.uk)

## 2. Head of Children’s Rights Advice Service – job description

### Specific responsibilities

#### **A) You will lead the provision of prompt, high-quality and accessible telephone and email children’s rights advice to children and young people, their independent advocates and others in independent roles, as well as concerned members of the public**

Since our inception, Article 39 has provided information about children’s rights to children and young people and concerned members of their family, independent advocates and others. With this new post, we are consolidating our learning and expertise and developing a new national advice service which can promptly assist children and young people, their independent advocates and others to use the law to effectively defend the rights of children and young people – especially those who live, or have lived, in institutional settings in England. You will lead the development of this new national resource, establish systems for receiving and responding to advice requests, and monitor and record the impact of our help. You will ensure Article 39 meets all relevant professional standards and legal requirements in the delivery of this service.

#### **B) You will lead virtual advocacy clinics and specialist human rights training courses for independent advocates**

Our Children and Young People’s Advocates Network supports 320+ independent advocates to give the best help possible to children and young people across social care, health, education and custodial settings in England. Working with our Head of Advocacy Support, you will convene online advocacy clinics on the concerns and matters which children and young people bring to their advocates. These clinics will provide accessible information about the law in specific areas, and facilitate solution-based discussion and peer support with the purpose of strengthening children’s rights protection.

Working with our Head of Advocacy Support, you will additionally develop and deliver online training and resources for children and young people’s advocates, and young people themselves, on using the Human Rights Act 1998 to change or challenge the decisions and actions of public authorities.

#### **C) You will develop and maintain our new Children’s Rights Lawyers Group**

We want to build the knowledge and confidence of independent advocates in identifying when they may need to help children and young people access legal advice, and understanding the practicalities of this. To this end, you will lead the development of our new Children’s Rights Lawyers Group, a list of solicitors and barristers who are available to speak at our events (including virtual advocacy clinics).

## **D) You will draft content for our rights4children website, an online rights resource for children and young people and those who support them**

Our pioneering rights4children website was launched in 2018 and provides accessible information on topics which children and young people told us were important to them. Forty-eight children and young people with direct experience of living in children’s homes, residential schools, mental health inpatient care and prisons worked with us to develop the resource. Working with Article 39’s Director and our Children and Young People’s Activism Lead, you will draft new content on matters of concern to children and young people, ensuring the information is accessible, up-to-date and relevant.

### **Additional responsibilities**

Working with Article 39 colleagues, you will also:

- Identify trends in concerns raised by children and young people across different settings, to inform our public policy advocacy, strategic litigation and organisational development.
- Represent Article 39 at external groups and networks concerned with using the law to bring about positive change with and for children and young people.
- Research and submit funding applications to support the continuous development of this new children’s rights advice service.
- Help Article 39 report to funders, keeping them updated of our work and impact.
- Undertake any other activities in fulfilment of the charity’s objects.

### **3. Person specification**

1.	Practising solicitor or barrister with a proven track record of successful litigation on behalf of children and young people.	ESSENTIAL
2.	Passionate about access to justice and using the law to bring about positive change in children and young people’s lives.	ESSENTIAL
3.	Able to demonstrate respect for children as having equal worth to adults, and commitment to the full implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.	ESSENTIAL
4.	Wide-ranging knowledge of domestic and international law affecting children and young people who live, and formerly lived, in institutional settings in England – especially the Children Act 1989, Human Rights Act 1998/the European Convention on Human Rights and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.  Knowledge of children’s rights in the areas of a) special educational needs and b) deprivation of liberty would be very welcome.	ESSENTIAL
5.	Prior experience of providing telephone and/or written advice to members of the public and/or running (or helping to run) an advice service.	ESSENTIAL
6.	Understanding and working knowledge of good safeguarding practice, including awareness of the challenges inherent in keeping children safe in institutional settings.	ESSENTIAL
7.	Excellent communication skills – oral and written – and demonstrable experience of communicating effectively and sensitively with both children and adults, including those in distress and requiring urgent assistance.	ESSENTIAL

8.	Able to prepare successful funding applications and to monitor and communicate impact to funders.	ESSENTIAL
9.	Self-motivated, able to work alone and with others as part of a small team.	DESIRABLE
10.	Prior experience of home working and being part of a campaigning charity.	DESIRABLE

#### 4. Application process

If you would like to apply for this post, please send us:



An up-to-date CV with the names of two referees covering the past five calendar years (maximum 3 pages, 12 point font). Please account for any gaps in your employment history. Gaps arising from caring responsibilities or illness will not be viewed negatively.



A supporting statement which succinctly sets out (maximum 2 pages, 12 point font) how you meet each of the 10 elements of the person specification (both essential and desirable criteria). Please number each of the criteria as above.

**Important:** please make sure your writing is accessible for all ages and do not use professional jargon or acronyms.

**Article 39 employees are required to have a satisfactory enhanced DBS check. Any offer of employment will be conditional upon this.**

Please send your application to [carolyne.willow@article39.org.uk](mailto:carolyne.willow@article39.org.uk), with 'Head of Children's Rights Advice Service application' in the subject heading by **3pm, Friday 4 February 2022**.

We will contact you by the end of the following week to let you know whether we would like to invite you to interview. Interviews will take place by Zoom on Thursday 17 February 2022.

Due to our limited capacity, we are very sorry that we will be unable to offer feedback on applications which are not shortlisted.

If you have any questions about this post, or Article 39, please contact our Director, Carolyne Willow, on the email above. She will endeavour to respond quickly.

THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING WORKING WITH US.

Article 39  
December 2021